



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

February 17, 2015

Senator Timothy Larson, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee
Representative Stephen Dargan, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee
Senator Anthony Guglielmo, Ranking Member Public Safety & Security Committee
Representative Lezlye Zupkus, Ranking Member Public Safety & Security Committee

Members of the Public Safety & Security Committee,

Raised House Bill #6776 – AAC JUST CAUSE DISMISSALS FOR MUNICIPAL FIRE CHIEFS

My name is Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative for the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. Our Association represents more than 26,000 paid and volunteer firefighters and Fire Chiefs in Connecticut. I would like to comment on the subject bill on the agenda for today's public hearing.

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association supports the subject bill. In researching the state statute for Police Chiefs and Fire Chiefs, it would appear that a "just cause" clause was inadvertently omitted from the Fire Chief statute. We believe that passing this initiative would provide some parity between the first responder safety services.

It does not seem logical that a Fire Chief, while properly performing his duties, could be dismissed from his position over a possible simple disagreement or a difference of opinion with his/her superiors. Nor should a Fire Chief's position be subject to a political change.

We believe that even with this change, a municipality would not be restricted from dismissing a Fire Chief **IF** they have proper cause. The local Fire Chief's position is to protect his municipality. He deserves to have some simple protection for his position. We would ask that you pass this legislation to allow a local Fire Chief to concentrate on doing his job; not on looking over his shoulder.

Respectfully,

Ted Schroll Jr.

Ted Schroll Jr., Legislative Representative
Connecticut State Firefighters Association

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